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AN

**ACCOUNT**

OF THE

**Riots, Tumults,**

AND OTHER

**TREASONABLE PRACTICES;**

SINCE

*His Majesty's Accession to the Throne.*

WITH SOME

**REMARKS,**

SHewing

The Necessity of strengthening the Laws  
against RIOTS; Humbly offered to the  
Consideration of the Parliament.

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L O N D O N :

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ACCOUNT  
OF THE  
British Committee

AND OF THE  
TREATY OF  
SINCE  
IN THE  
WITH SOME

REMARKS

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The Necessity of  
against Foreign  
Consideration of

LONDON  
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A N  
ACCOUNT  
O F

*Riots and Tumults, &c.*

**I**T is to be hoped, that among the many Grievances these Kingdoms have now to complain of, and which will, no doubt come before the present Parliament for Redress, you will not think the putting a stop to the dangerous Practice of Mobs and Riots, one of the least of those Evils that Merit your Attention. These are grown to that height, and pass with such impunity, that the Occasions are become only the Will of the People ; more properly, of a rude and lawless Multitude ; who would not of themselves indeed be worth the Notice, were it not for those who feed and cherish this Spirit of Rebellion in them, and for the Ends which too many of them not only Design, but such Consequences as must too apparently follow, if some speedy Method be not found out to curb and restrain these growing Evils ; and since we have seen that the present Laws are put under such tender Constructions, as render them too Weak to punish such Offences as they deserve, as well in the Nature as in the Necessity of them ; we may the rather expect that it will be thought Reasonable to  
B strengthened

strengthen the Hands of the Civil Magistracy, by some wholesome Acts to keep the Constitution in better Order.

What need, or what indeed can be said farther to a P ——— t that have the Preservation of our Liberties, Laws, and Religion so much at Heart? and cannot but out of their great Wisdom percieve, that the continuance of such Practices must inevitably tend to the ruin of them all, especially, when we see by what Party, and to what Uses they are countenanced; and what is still Worse, that the Pulpit has so great a Hand in stirring up the People to this unreasonable Humour; and their very Nurslings at the Universities are initiated into the same early Doctrines; by which, the Streams of Learning as well as Loyalty are become corrupted: The whole System of *Non-resistance*, and *Passive-Obedience*, laid aside, and their Adversaries furnished with sufficient Arguments to upbraid them; *That the greatest Loyalists in Pretence, are the worst Rebels in Practice.*

Nothing can be more proper to lay before the Parliament, in order to obtain their Consideration, and consequently some Redress of these Grievances, than the Manner and Occasion of those Mobs and Riots which have actually happened since the sitting of the former Parliaments, and such, as had they been transacted during their Time, by a contrary Party, would not have failed being prosecuted in the most severe Manner. The Whigs, who had before been prejudged of *Resisting* Principles, could never have escaped under a Sentence of Rebellion, for the least Tumult or Insurrection they had occasioned; and it would sure be but very just, that these great Pretenders to Non-

Re.



*Resistance*, should be rendered Examples of their own Doctrine.

To shew that the Words, as well as the Practices of these profest Loyalists, are apt to rise in Judgment against them; so little is there in their specious Pretences, I shall beg leave to Quote to you some Lines of a late \* Author in great repute \* *Examiner*. with them, and esteemed their Oracle.

‘ By these and the like Arts, (says he) in  
 ‘ Conjunction with a great depravity of Man-  
 ‘ ners, and a weak and corrupt Administra-  
 ‘ tion, (speaking of that which had gone be-  
 ‘ fore) the Madness of the People hath risen to  
 ‘ such a height, as to break in Pieces the whole  
 ‘ Frame of the best instituted Governments.  
 ‘ But however such great Frenzies being Arti-  
 ‘ ficially raised, are a perfect force and con-  
 ‘ straint upon Humane Nature, and under a  
 ‘ WISE STEADY PRINCE, will certainly  
 ‘ decline of themselves, settling like the Sea  
 ‘ after a Storm, and then the true Bent and  
 ‘ Genius of the People will appear.

No Man on Earth, not even one inspired, could have uttered a nearer Prophecy of the present Infatuation of the People of *England*, who I shall leave without any further Comment, till I have presented a fair State of the Disorders which have arisen thro’ the false and imaginary Notions instilled into them, and which, Time, and a plain Conviction of their Error, from the Absurdities imposed on them, can only cure them of, when they will fall with the same rapidity on those who deluded them.

That the Nature of these Offences may appear the plainer, I shall briefly sum them up to you, and in Charity to the good University of *Oxford*, omit the early beginning by one of their Students, who, out of a mistaken Notion of his Parties Loyalty, sent that Memorable Letter to the Mayor for proclaiming the Pretender. Nor indeed, did they any where shew themselves in their proper Colours, whilst they had hopes of preserving that Power and Rank which they had practic'd under the former Government: But this was no sooner known, and his Majesty scarce a Month settled on the Throne, but they began to appear out of their Disguises.

The Opportunity or Occasion of throwing of their Masks, was at the Performance of his Majesty's Coronation, and that they fixed on that Day, needs no greater Instance of their virulent and treasonable Disposition. But I shall place the Catalogue in as just Order as I can, without insisting on much Form, 'tis the Facts I would represent to you, which follow in Order.

SIR,

*Bristol, October 23. 1714.*

**I**N the Evening of the Coronation-Day, the Loyal Gentlemen of this City had, in Honour of the Day, provided a very handsom Ball at the Custom-House; but while these best Citizens and most loyal Subjects were thus, with all Duty and Affection, celebrating the Coronation-Day, a Set of Riotous and Rebellious Persons had the better Opportunity of executing their wicked Designs. Now, that they might carry on the Design under some Colour, a notorious Lye was framed by the Party, famous for such Inventions, That the Whigs were making the Effigies

Effigies of Dr. Sacheverel, in Order to burn it, This Story, tho' wholly false, and built on no Foundation of Truth, took with the Mob, the Doctor's only Favourites, who (as 'tis suppos'd) were set on and encourag'd by some of the Heads of our Tories; and in the Evening a Company of Fellows made drunk, in a Riotous Manner ran about the City, kick'd out the Bonafiers, crying out, Down with the Roundheads, God blefs Doctor Sacheverel; but not one Huzza or Acclamation for King George. No Windows were broke that were not Illuminated, as was done at the Proclamation of our advantageous Peace; but, on the contrary, those Houses were assaulted that were enlighten'd with Candles; but especially those in which 'twas reported the Effigies of the Doctor was made. The first House on which they discharg'd their Fury, was Mr. Whiting's our Under-Sheriff, who had only offended the Party in shewing himself hearty in prosecuting an abandon'd perjur'd Wretch; the next was Mr. Jeffrys's, whose only Crime was his Loyalty to our present Sovereign, for which his Windows were broke all to Pieces; but the Mark to which the Storm was directed, was Mr. Stevens's House, a Baker, were it 'twas given out the Doctor was conceal'd in Effigy (tho' found to be a Lye, by Constables sent to search by the Mayor) Here they came, armed with Clubs, and heated with Liquor, and were not satisfy'd in breaking Windows, but forc'd open the Doors, carry'd away his Furniture, Money, Plate, Bread, Meal, &c. to a Considerable Value; and had not our Magistrates ventur'd their Lives to suppress 'em, they would, in all likelihood, have visited, other Houses, tho' they contemn'd their Authority in great Measure.

In this rebellious Riot one Mr. Thomas was barbarously murder'd, for persuading them to withdraw; and several Gentlemen were hurt, abus'd, and insulted.

insulted. None of these Murderers and Robbers were hurt by Mr. Stevens but one, who was stabb'd forcing up the Stairs ; who is not dead, but we hope will live to receive a Halter as a Reward for his Villanies. Our Magistrates are very diligent in apprehending them, and Eleven are already taken, Six of whom are indicted for High-Treason, Burglary and Murder ; and we don't doubt but more will be met with. A Reward of fifty Pounds is promis'd by the City, payable by the Chamberlain, to the discoverer of the Murderer, and we hope he will be brought to Justice. Thus did the Jacobite Party shew their Loyalty, which I take to be like the Struggling of a Dying Man in his last Convulsions ; for I believe this will be their last Effort, for we are inform'd the same Story was rais'd at Worcester, Gloucester, Taunton, Bridgwater, and Disorders committed ; and we don't doubt but 'twas a Design laid thro' the Kingdom.

I am your, &c.

SIR,

Chippenham in Wilts, Oct. 23. 1714.

**A**T our Town, great Preparations were made to honour the King upon his Coronation, with the greatest Joy. Mr. Eyles, and Mr. Earle, had order'd Twenty Hogsheads of Ale, Bonfires, and Ringing the Bells, and other Entertainments ; and divers Justices and Gentlemen of our Neighbourhood, with our Freemen and Inhabitants, all with Coronation-Favours in their Hats, walk'd in Procession round the Town, and with Huzzas drank the King's Health, the Prince and Princess, Church of England as by Law establish'd, and to the Preservation of Liberty and Property, with the greatest Cheerfulness imaginable, till interrupted by a Jacobite Mob, who, arm'd with Guns, Pistols, and Clubs, marching with Beat of Drum, assaulted and abused the Justices,



Justices, who saw how far these Villains trespass'd upon the Laws, us'd no Fortible Means to suppress them; and having discover'd their Leaders, Care will be taken to have them punish'd as the Law directs, and as they deserve.

The following Night, the same factious Mob, with their Drums, and a Gentleman of Distinction at their Head, issued out again, and forcibly enter'd the House of one Mr. Evanston, and beat him, his Wife, and Son, in so barbarous a Manner, that 'tis doubted whether Mr. Evanston will recover of his Wounds.

Had Two Gentlemen, one an Acting Justice, and the other in the Commission of the Peace, who I am inform'd were in the House were these Rebels gathered together, and projected their Mischief, exerted their Authority, this might have been prevented; but by their sitting still, they tacitly, if not openly gave encouragement to it, to the Scandal of their Commission, and the Prejudice of the Peace they are bound to maintain.

Your humble Servant:

Norwich, Oct. 23d. Last Wednesday, being the joyful Day of King George's Coronation, several Gentlemen and Tradesmen, to shew their Loyalty to his Majesty, agreed to appear under Arms, and desired an Unanimous Consent of Persons in the Case; but the Gentlemen of the High Party refus'd to join the Loyal Cavalcade, and instead of that, several of them headed a Mob to oppose them, when they attended the Right Worshipful the Mayor and his Brethren at the Bonfire, where the whole Court, and the Gentlemen abovemention'd, drank his Majesty's Health with loud Huzzas, Long live King George; in which joyful Acclamations the abovemention'd disaffected Parry refused to join, but cry'd Bene and Berney, excepting some of them, who had

*had the Impudence to cry, God d——n King George, pull off their Knots ; on which were wrote, in Letters of Gold, Long live King George. N. B. Information is given upon Oath of Three Substantial Evidences, before Three of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace, That Tho. P — l, Taylor, did cry out at the Head of the Mob, G——d d——n King George ; pull off their Knots.*

*Abergavenny in Monmouthshire, Octob. 21. On the Day of his Majesty's Coronation, the two Princes, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Harris, My Lord of Abergavenny's Steward, and most of the Town, met on that solemn Occasion, drank his Majesty's Health, Prosperity to his Royal Family, and other loyal Healths ; while the Bells rung, the Drums beat, and the Musick play'd ; most of the Houses were gloriously illuminated, and particularly Mrs. Gunter's of the Priory ; but some Profess'd and Church-Papists did not think fit to illuminate their Houses, and the Lady of one, who has an Office in the Revenue, could spare no more than Three Farthing Candles on that Occasion, having spent her Stock last Year, when she made a Bonfire, and burnt a Whig in it.*

*Reading in Berkshire, October 23. On the 20th Instant, at the Coronation of King George, a Parcel of honest and zealous Gentlemen for the present King's Interest, met together to drink the King's Health and made a large Bonfire ; a tumultuous and riotous Mob rose upon them, routed them with large Clubs, crying out, No Hanover, no Cadogan, but Calvert and Clarges ; pull'd the Bonfire to Pieces, carry'd it away, and so spoil'd the Mirth of the Night, withal crying out, No Foreign Government. Bit.*

Birmingham, October 21. 1714. Several of the Principal Inhabitants of this Town, having resolv'd in a suitable Manner to express their Joy, on the Day of the Coronation of His Sacred Majesty King George, an Entertainment was prepar'd for them at the Castle-Tavern. When the Night came on, a tumultuous Rabbel got together, broke the Windows of the House, and forced the Company to remove. All the Cry was, Sacheverel for ever, and down with the Whigs. If any one in the Street cry'd God bless King George, he was in Danger of his Life. At another Part of the Town a worthy Gentleman entertain'd some Friends at his own House, and, for the better solemnizing such a glorious Day, put out a Flag, with King George in a Cypher thereon. This House shared the same Fate with the Castle.

On the Coronation Day, at Nuneaton in Warwickshire, a Riot began by Two notorious disloyal Persons, one of them an Officer in Half-pay, who applied themselves to one Mr. Thomas Eaves, a sincere Friend in that Town to the Protestant Interest and Succession: They demanding Money of him to drink Dr. Sacheverel's Health, who answer'd them, If they had ask'd to drink King George's Health, he would have answer'd their Request; and upon some other Words in disfavour of the Doctor, these Persons parted from him in a Rage, and not without Threats. Soon after came some others, but of another Stamp, desiring something for a Bonfire, which the said Mr. Eaves readily granted, and gave them a Piece of Wood about Ten Foot long, and Twenty Inches about, which they fastned in the Ground, and with a considerable Number of Fagots made a noble Fire: The Constable, and several others well-effected and credi-

ble Inhabitants repaired to it, ordering strong Liquors to be brought them, where they drank King *George's* Health, the Prince and Princess, and all the Royal Family, freely Treating all that came, and would drink the said Healths. They had not been long expressing their Loyalty and Joy, before the aforesaid Two Persons appear'd with some others, particularly one, who is a Half-pay Officer, at the Head of a large Mob, who first demanded Drink for them to drink Dr. *Sacheverel's* Health, and attempted to destroy the Fire, being animated by some Persons of Note. The Constable charg'd them to keep the Peace, and commanded Assistance, but all availed nothing, being overpower'd by the Mob, who had provided a long Iron Chain, encompassed the Constable and his Friends, by the Fire; by which means the loyal Gentlemen narrowly escap'd being Burnt, but were extremely abused and wounded: This done, they pull'd down the Fire, and then went up and down breaking the Windows of all such as appear'd for, or endeavour'd to aid and assist the Constable, and gathering as much of the Fire as they could together, they laid it to the House of the abovesaid Mr. *Eaves*, broke his Windows, and shot in at them with Fire-Arms, by which he narrowly escap'd being kill'd; also broke open his Doors, notwithstanding the King's Officer was in the House, abused his two Daughters, tearing off their Head-cloaths, and dragging one of them down by her Hair into the Dirt, under Feet, and beating the other in the Face, and doing abundance of other Damage: The Constable and other abused Inhabitants met the next Morning, and agreed if the Rioters would acknowledge their Error, and ask Par-  
don,



don, they would not prosecute them, in case they for the future would be Civil ; but instead thereof, they insulted them, and threatned if it were to do again, they would be as forward as ever. Mr. *Eaves* made his Application to *Fettiplace Nott*, Esq; a Justice of the Peace, who hearing his Case, was much concern'd, and granted his Warrant for Apprehending the Rioters ; but being obliged to be at *London* in a few Days following, the Rioters kept out of the Way till hearing that Justice *Nott* was gone for *London*. The Two that first demanded Money from Mr. *Eaves*, to drink Dr. *Sacheverel's* Health, applied themselves to one *Bruebridge*, a Justice of the Peace, and a noted Person in Favour of the Rioters, appearing in their Behalf at *Birmingham*, *Bruebridge*, and Sir *Richard N—gate* receiv'd the Oath of one of those Persons, who depos'd, That *William Eaves* assert-ed, That Dr. *Sacheverel* was to drive the Queen and some Jacks through *Birmingham*, to the Devil. The other being more cautious, would not swear that the Queen was mention'd, but Dr. *Sacheverel* was ; and also the Word Jacks. Mr. *Eaves* being sent for, was Rated by the Justices, especially *Bruebridge*, who bound him over to be prosecuted the next Sessions at *Warwick* Assizes, and has since sent among the Tory-Inhabitants, to gather Moneys to assist the Rioters to prosecute Mr. *Eaves* : Who finding himself likely to be Prosecuted at Law, desired Mr. *B—bridge*, to consider the Abuses himself and others had received from the Evidences, and others that they headed. But Mr. Justice *G—man* told him, Had his House been pull'd down by them, he might take it for his Pains ; for, for his Part, he could not tell where

he would have Redress. This Act of Loyalty in this eminent Justice might be corroborated with other flagrant Instances, favouring all that fall in his Way, who strenuously exert themselves to ridicule and oppose our happy Constitution under the Administration of his Sacred Majesty, King *George*. Mr. *Eaves*, who is now under Prosecution by Order of the abovementioned Justices, hath intirely incur'd the displeasure of the Faction, by signaling himself as an Enemy to their Management, and a Friend to the House of *Hanover*.

At the Town of *Bedford* on the Coronation Day, several of the common People, in a tumultuous manner, assaulted those who then made Rejoycings; and the same Morning put the *May-pole* in Mourning; nor did the Magistrates take notice of the Complaints that were put up to them against those Indignities. That Day continued tumultuous, and the *May-pole* was left standing in Mourning till the 8th of *November*, when Captain *William Bourdon*, with the Approbation of several Gentlemen there, cut down the *May-pole*, and brought away the Garlands, which were set up in Dishonour of his Majesty.

At *Axminster* in *Devonshire*, the Coronation Day was celebrated with great Solemnity and Rejoycings; but on the 5th of *November*, some of the zealous Protestants of that loyal Town, having provided the Effigies of the *Pope* and *Pretender* for the Bonfire, a *Jacobite*, High Church Rabble, from *Shute*, *Thorncomba*, *Colhamton*, and other neighbouring Villages, came to *Axminster*, with Clubs and Staves, to rescue those Effigies; and carried their Fury to such a treasonable Pitch, as to proclaim the *Pretender*  
King

King of England, and drink his Health by the Name of *James III.*

To this purpose, we must likewise take notice of the Insult offer'd to the Reverend Mr. *Joseph Acres*, Vicar of *Blewberry*, near *Wallingford* in *Berks*, who being invited to preach at *White-Chappel*, on *Sund. Oct. 24.* in the Afternoon, chose for his Text, *Pf. 78. We will not hide them from their Children, shewing to the Generation to come the Praises of the Lord, and his Strength, and his wonderful Works that he hath done.* This worthy Divine observ'd from hence, how necessary it was to perpetuate the Memory of signal Deliverances from one Generation to another; and after a short Historical Account of the Deliverances we of this Kingdom have receiv'd since the Reformation, he insisted upon the Benefits we received by the happy Revolution, of which *K. William* was the glorious Instrument; and the great and imminent Dangers we had so lately escaped before the Queen's Death. This honest and seasonable Discourse was so displeasing to some of *Dr. Welton's* High-flying Parishioners, that they mobb'd the Gentleman after he came out of the Pulpit; jostled and threw Rubbish at him; and, in all Probability would have done him greater Mischief, had he not been rescued out of their Hands by Constables and others, who carry'd him to the *Man-in-the-Moon Tavern* in *White-chappel*, whence he was obliged to make his Escape in a Lay Habit.

*Frome* in *Somersetshire*, *Oct. 25.*

As we were here Solemnizing the happy Day of his Majesty's Coronation, a Mob was raised  
on

on purpose to obstruct our Mirth, consisting of Kennel Rakers, and Bailiffs Followers, who in the Evening when the Company were retiring to Mr. Kingman's to finish the Day, as soon as we came to the Market Place, assaulted us with Clubs, &c. wounded Mr. Kingman in the Face, and would have pulled him off his Horse, while we had nothing to defend our selves withal but little Wands which we carried in our Hands: Their Fury did not end here, for they made three Attempts to fetch one of the Gentlemen who assisted in the Procession, out of his House, and threatened to Murder him if he had fallen into their Hands.

Taunton, Nov. 1.

I cannot forbear acquainting you of some flaming Instances of the Tories disloyalty here on the Day of his Majesty's Coronation. Whilst we were celebrating the same, as we passed by the High Cross, where sat the Mayor, Recorder, and a few of the Aldermen, from whence we were saluted with the cry of *Sound for the Church*, *Sound for Sacheverel*, to which we replied, *Sound for King George*; upon this one of our Company was knocked down. They would not suffer us to kindle a Bonfire, but with force took away the Faggots: They next assaulted the Tavern where the Gentlemen, &c. were met, and with Brickbats, Stones, and Firebrands, broke down all the Windows, set the House on Fire, so that the Gentlemen con'd neither stay, nor come away without hazard of their Lives. It is impossible almost to describe their Disloyalty; some were heard in the Streets to curse King George; several knocked down



down for naming him ; some had their Limbs broke, and many were so abused that their Lives were in great Danger. This Riot was committed of the M——r and R——r, and other chief Magistrates, who were not seen or heard to do the least thing toward suppressing it.

*Chichester. Dec. 1.*

This Day, as soon as the Post arrived, and brought News that the *Bristol* Rioters were only punished with a small Fine, some People here, who concern themselves much about the ensuing Elections, did in a Riotous manner assemble above one hundred disorderly Persons near the Cross, in order to assault his Grace the Duke of *Richmond*, whom they expected to return that way to take Horse for *London* ; accordingly the Mob, upon the sound of an Horn, which was the signal to be given when he was coming, they insulted him in an audacious manner, crying out, *No Lord of the Bedchamber, no Papist turn'd Protestant, &c.* And when he came to the Inn, surrounded him, and thrust their Hats in his Face : When his Grace arrived at the Inn, they pursued him to the Stairs foot, and he was forced to use means to defend his Life.

On the 27th of *January* came on the Election for the County of *Middlesex* at *Brentford*, which was carried on in a very Mobbish and Tumultuous manner ; Gangs of disorderly and seditious Fellows were placed upon the Road, to insult the Electors who were for Sir *John Austen* and Mr. *Barker* as they passed along. Near the place of Poll, above a hundred of these Fellows having Truncheons of a convenient length, were placed, who insolently demanded who the  
several

several Electors polled for ? And if for the two  
aforesaid Gentlemen, they made use of their  
Sticks to assault them ; and kept a great many  
from Polling at all for fear of their Lives. They  
derided his Majesty's Proclamation, and threw  
Mr. *Barker's* Coachman twice into the *Thames*.

*Hertsford, Jan. 25.*

On the Day of Election for this Town, there  
came in the Morning about Sixty Persons from  
*Cesar's*, who was one of the Candidates, who  
enter'd the Town with beat of Drum and  
Streamers flying, &c. shouting out, *no Presby-*  
*terian, High-Church and Sacheverel, Low-Church*  
*and the Devil* ; and some of them were heard  
to cry out in the Night, *no Presbyterians, no*  
*King George*.

*Leicester, Feb. 2.*

Yesterday came on the Election here for this  
County ; the Candidates were Sir *Jeffrey Palmer*,  
Sir *Tho. Cave*, Barts. *Tho. Byrd* and *George*  
*Ashby*, Esqs. There is no Insolence to be men-  
tioned that was used to the two latter, and such  
as came to Vote for them. This Day the Poll  
was agreed on all hands to be adjourned, and  
Mr. *Byrd* and Mr. *Ashby* retir'd to their Lodgings ;  
but no sooner had they left the Court, but the  
contrary Party attacked the Sheriff, and with  
Force and ill Language, pressed to declare the  
two Baronets duly Elected ; which upon refu-  
sing to do, as knowing there was yet many  
Votes to come, who had been staved off by the  
Friends of the Baronets, they fired his Cloaths  
in open Court, pulled the Chair from under  
him, threw him down, and threaten'd to cut  
his

his Throat if he persisted in his refusal. Upon which he called for his Writ of Assistance, which was deny'd him, and he was compelled to open his Books again, and Swear another to take the Poll in his Room, whilst the abused Sheriff amidst the Kicks and Cuffs of a confused Multitude, could hardly withdraw to save his Life; nor durst return for fear of being murder'd; but the next Day took Horse to *London* to make his Complaint as the Law directs, &c.

*Beckington, near Fromm in Somersetshire,*

*Feb. 12, 1714.*

S I R,

MY Father (whom you know) has been very ill of a Fever this 7 or 8 Weeks, and we had but little Hopes of his Recovery till about a Week ago, but by a surprize of a true *Sacheverel* Mob, he was thrown into a Relapse, an Account of which my Father has order'd me to give you, that you may insert it in your Newspaper, which will be highly acceptable to all the Country; for a Mob fired with such Fury, was never seen in these Parts.

Wednesday last was our Election of Knights for the County of *Somerset*, and the High Party, who still retain their furious Zeal to prevent the *Churches Danger*, which they assert is now greater than ever, fixt on one we call *W. W——ine*, thinking that he who had been so eminently serviceable to their Church, by bringing in the *Schism Bill*, and doing all he cou'd to pass the *Freuch Bill of Commerce*, the fittest Person for their Representative. Accordingly the Scaramouches and Short-sighted Country-Squires stirr'd up the Mob, as well as the Freeholders about the Country, to appear for this judicious Choice, giving out by some of their Gang,

D

that

that if any went out of those Parts against them, they should have their Brains beaten out as they return'd Home, which they attempted to make good ; for on *Wednesday* Evening, here arose a Mob that went most Part of the Night round the Town, breaking Windows, tho' there was no News that Night how the Poll stood, and 'twas well there was not ; for if their had, in all probability my Father and his Family, with others of the Town, had run a Danger of being murder'd in their Beds : For next Day towards Afternoon, some of the Ringleaders and Abettors of this Mob arriv'd, mortal Drunk, with the News of Sir *William Windham* and his Friends carrying the Election, upon which the Mob increas'd to that Degree in Fury, as well as Number (being also made Drunk before-hand, to prepare them for their Work) that about a Hundred beset my Father's House, some of them swearing they wou'd pull it down ; but their Leaders were all so Drunk, that they could not come out, and somebody had told them that we had a Guard in our House, with Blunderbusses, Guns and Pistols, which in part was true ; and, I believe, had not this put a Check to 'em, they would have broke in all at once, plunder'd the House, and in all likelihood murder'd my Father and his Children. He was forced to keep Guard in his House all Night, and by God's Goodness their villanous Designs were Defeated. However, they attack'd several Persons as they rode through the Town, whom they suspected to be against Sir *William* and his Friend. On *Friday*, some of 'em got Drunk again, and mobbed about the Town all Day, and part of last Night, insulting People as they rode through the Streets, and threatning again  
to



to pull down my Father's House ; so that he was forced to call for the Aid of the Constables, but could have no Redress.

S I R, *Cambridge, Feb. 19. 1714.*

The Noise and Tumult at *Cambridgeshire* Election on *Thursday* last, was so prodigious, that I believe it has reach'd the Town before now. But perhaps there are some remarkable Particulars not yet made common; be pleas'd therefore to communicate to the Publick what follows.

It must be confess'd there was an Edict from the Vice-Chancellor to confine the Scholars to their several Colleges; but at the same time some particular Heads of Colleges were so far from putting that Edict in Force, that they rather encourag'd the following Tumults.

They begun with Mr. *Shepherd*, late Candidate for the Town of *Cambridge*, who, coming into the Roseyard on *Thursday* Morning, had a Glas of Wine flung in his Face by a Scholar out of a Window, calling out at the same time, a *Pigot*, a *Pigot*; the Room being full of Scholars, who took possession of it betimes in the Morning, the more conveniently to insult those that came for Mr. *Bromley* and *Jennings*.

From these softer degrees of Malice, they betook themselves to Stones and Brickbats, whereby many honest Gentlemen were bruised, or knocked down, as they ran the Gantlet thro' this learned Mob. The Two worthy Candidates seeing most of their Friends, who came to Poll, batter'd and besmear'd, desired Mr. High Sheriff to engage Mr. *Pigot* to accompany him in his Coach, in order to quell the Mob. He was

perswaded, and they went down together; but no sooner had Mr. High Sheriff look'd out of his Coach to appease 'em, but the Dirt was thrown in his Face; and he taking Notice of the insolent Varlet, who did it, got out of his Coach to secure him, but was forced to take Sanctuary again in his Coach. Mr. Pigot at the same time being so arch, as to tell the Sheriff, 'Tis you that make the Riot; adding, That he might thank himself for the Dirt, since he put his Head out of the Coach.

In the Evening, when this peaceable Company perceiv'd their Idol could not be exalted, they grew more enraged than ever, and form'd Two dangerous Designs against the new Elected Members: There was a Party plac'd on the Bridge, whose Rails are low, and over which the new Elects were oblig'd to come, riding in Chairs from the Poll; their Business was to toss 'em over, with their Chairs, into the River; and lest that Design should fail, a right trusty Body of Passively Obedient *Johnians* were mounted on their College Leads, (under which the Members were to pass) with good store of Brickbats to discharge on their Heads; but these Villainous Designs taking Wind, the Members about Nine at Night, were obliged, for safety of their Lives, to come down from the Castle in an unusual Manner, not in Chairs, but in Coaches: And notwithstanding the Precaution of their Friends, yet the aforesaid Polite *Juventus Academica*, &c. discharg'd whole Vollies of Brickbats, &c. at the Coaches of the Members, 12 Brickbats being taken out of the Coaches, of the Members alighting at the Rose. After this Insolence, 'twill be needless to Mention the Glasses being all broken, and the Leathers slit in several

several Places. None need doubt of the Veracity of this Account, there being a Cloud of Witnesses to confirm the Truth of each particular above.

At our Assizes here, the same Spirit appeared; for there being some Prosecutions commenced against one or two of the Ringleaders of the Riot; they then insulted the Judges as they came from the Castle, crying out, *no Whig Judges, but a Pigot, a Pigot!* A pretty sort of Behaviour to be taught at our Universities, and we are to expect most excellent Loyal Doctrine from such Gentlemen, when they arrive at the Pulpit.

These Things, in the briefest Manner possible, are humbly thought fit to be layed before the Honourable House, and the Nation in the strongest Terms, cannot but require your most serious and speedy Consideration thereon.

From these Seeds of Rebellion Springs up the Hopes of the Pretender and his Adherents; and till they are weeded up in some Parliamentary way, the Danger to these Kingdoms will never cease.

Our Enemies make the Application for us, and give a very shrew'd hint of the Hopes they conceive from these pernicious Causes.

A certain \* Author tells us, \* *Lesley's Letter to the Bishop of Salisbury.* We may as well stop the Tide at Gravesend with a Thumb, as oppose the Torrent of the Peoples Inclination, now their Eyes are opened.

— And if your Severity, the only Way left, for they will be wheedled no more, shall force the People to take up Arms in their own Defence, &c. Here is the Way to Rebellion put out for them, if you offer to stop their Proceedings by wholesome Severities, you see their

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Instructions. But I hope that will rather strengthen your Resentment, than make you pay any Deference to the cunning Insinuations of our Enemies. And 'tis the more earnestly expected from you, in that it comes recommended to you, as well from the *Sovereign* as the *People*, and is the hearty Prayer and Desire of all the Honest Part of the Kingdom, that wish well to their King and Country.

S I R,

*Bristol, March 7.*

**I**N order to give you a true Idea of what lately pass'd at our Election of Members of Parliament for this City, it will be proper to acquaint you, that the Riot and Disorder that happen'd at the last Election, was so great, that our Mayor thought it absolutely necessary, for the better preservation of the Peace, to swear Eighty new Constables to attend the Poll from Day to Day; by which means, together with the discreet and prudent Behaviour of our Sheriffs, the whole was carried on with all imaginable Regularity. After the Poll was ended, and Proclamation made, as is usual in such Cases, Sir *William Daines* and Coll. *Earle*, two of the Candidates, (having had plain Demonstration of foul Play, by Oath against some, and by the Confession of another, who offer'd themselves to Poll a second Time) demanded a Scrutiny; which being granted by Mr. *Taylor*, one of our Sheriffs, (the other being incapable of attending, by Reason of some Indisposition) the Managers and Agents of Mr. *Edwards* and Mr. *Freke*, the Candidates on the other Side, immediately leapt upon the Table where the Clerks were Writing, and in a very riotous and tumultuous Manner, insulted the Sheriff, and abused the first nam'd Candidates, crying out, No Scrutiny,

No



No Scrutiny; Declare, Declare, and demanded that the Poll should be cast up that Night, and Mr. *Edwards* and Mr. *Freke* declared duly elected; which being almost impossible, and the Sheriff persisting in his Resolution of granting a Scrutiny, he order'd the Court to be adjourn'd till the next Morning.

The Day following, when the Court was sat, and the Persons appointed on both sides to cast up the Poll had made their Report, that the Majority appeared in favour of Mr. *Edwards* and *Freke*, Sir *William Davies* and Mr. *Earle* again demanded a Scrutiny. Upon which the Tory Party immediately mounted the Table, and in a very mobbish and riotous manner, as before, abused the Sheriff, declaring he should not go out of the Hall till he had sign'd the Indenture of Return for *Freke* and *Edwards*. To which he made the following Reply, That he had granted a Scrutiny according to Law, which he would abide by, and then adjourned the Court for 14 Days, and with much Difficulty got safe out of the Hall.

In that Interval, all imaginable Industry and Diligence was us'd by the *Hanoverian* Party, to detect the illegal Voters, in the Prosecution of which, such a Scene of Villainy was disclosed, that 'tis impossible for me to give you a just Idea of it, without entering into a more particular Relation than the Design of this Letter will allow. Some by razing the Sheriff's Mark out of their Copies, had prepared themselves to Poll several times, others were raised out of their Graves, to appear in the Cause of the Church, as they profanely and impudently call'd it; some swore to Freeholds which they never had in Possession, and others to shew their

Zeal.

Zéal against the present Government, voted both in the quality of Freemen and Freeholders; many had their Copies extorted from them by Artifice and Violence, whilst others were drag'd to the Poll contrary to their Inclinations: One was almost poyson'd by a Soporifick Draught given him by an Apothecary; and another, who was absent at the Time of the Election, but is since return'd, has his Wife forcibly detain'd from him, for fear of a black Discovery. In short, all the Tricks and Stratagems that the infernal Spirit could dictate to them, together with all the lying Falshood, Villany and Perjury that their own Inclinations naturally lead them to, were practis'd upon this Occasion. The several charitable Foundations of this City were vilely prostituted to a Party Interest; Two poor Boys stripp'd and turn'd out of Mr. Colston's Hospital because their Fathers Voted on the other side; and Ten Pounds, the Gift of Mrs. Sarah Colston, was distributed ( amongst several Persons, who Polled for *Freke* and *Edwards* ) by one of the same Name (who was very lately taken up for dispersing that scandalous Pamphlet against the present Government call'd *English Advice*, &c.) in prejudice to the Right of the Churchwardens of the Parish, who were the only proper Persons to dispose of that Charity.

In short, they refus'd all the Overtures that were made them, publicly protested against the Sheriff's Authority in granting the Scrutiny, and by their Noise and Tumult oblig'd the Sheriff to adjourn the Court till next Morning. The Remaining part of the Day, and all the Night following was employed in spiriting up the Mob, and laying their Schemes to puzzle and confound the Court: The next Day many  
Threat-

Threatnings were given out of their Villainous Designs, and Informations taken before the Mayor against two Persons, who swore they would Pistol the Sheriff unless he return'd *Freke* and *Edwards*. Notwithstanding which, with an undaunted Courage, he and the other honest Gentlemen concern'd in the Cause, made a shift to crowd into the Hall, the next Morning, through a Volley of Hissings and Abuses, while Mr. *Edwards* and his Friends were crying out all the way they pass'd along, to the unthinking Populace, Now Gentlemen for your Liberties, *Now or Never*, if you don't stand by us, and carry your Point this Time, you are made Slaves for ever. When they came into the Court, Mr. *Ayres*, a Counsellor on the Tory Side, mounted on High, made a long Harangue in Favour of his Clients, directing himself rather to the Mob than Sheriff, as their *dernier Resort*, against all Government and Authority, telling them, That their Privileges were going to be taken away, and that from henceforth they would be liable to be Prest into the King's Service; using many other popular Arguments to inrage and inflame them, whilst several of their Agents below bellow'd out Liberty and Property, and cry'd one and all, let's drive the Constables out of the Hall, that all the Freemen may take their last Farewel of their long enjoy'd Privileges; intending thereby to stop our Proceedings by Outrage and Violence, and to make way for the Mob to break in upon us, and execute their Villainous Designs; and in this disorderly and tumultuous Manner the second Day was concluded, without doing any Thing, by an adjournment to the Council House the next Morning.

Notwithstanding that Precaution of the Sheriff in adjourning the Court to a more private Place than the common *Guild-Hall*, yet the same or worse Confusion and Disorder attended our Proceedings the next and last Day; the Passions of the Tory Party, which had been boiling some time before, were now wrought up to Frenzy and Madness, and all the Indications of the extreamest Rage and Malice were conspicuous in their Behaviour; at that time nothing was heard in the Council-House, but Cursing and Swearing, Scandal and Scurrility: The Sheriff was call'd Villain to his Face; and all the other honest Gentlemen who appeared in a just Cause, were villify'd to the last Degree. They all stamp'd on the Floor, as if they intended to raise the Devil to their Assistance; threw up the Sashes, and call'd out to the ungovernable Mob to scale the House, come in, to gratify their base Inclinations; but when they found neither wou'd come to their Assistance, they forcibly shut the Door, and had it not been for the Constables that attended, would have executed their villainous Designs. The Sheriff by this Procedure being made sensible that it was impossible to carry on the Scrutiny, and hearing one of the Managers of the Tory Party swear by G — d there should be no Scrutiny, dropp'd the Court, and made his Return.

N. W.

N. B. That the Right of Election is in the Freemen and Freeholders, who always produce their Copies at the Time of Poll.

F I N I S